

Juvenile Offender and Victim Mediation

May 11, 2009

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Present: Kit Boesch (Human Services), Vicky Thompson (CEDARS), Kren Shellhase (Cedars), Julie Schlefel (FMC), Amanda Balzer (FMC), and David Orr (FMC).

Kren said there are 3 mediation cases in the works. She is waiting for the consent forms from the victims. She explained a majority of youth or their parents decline the option to mediate. Only 1 victim has not been interested.

David said Sara informed Probation and the Judges about the option to mediate. There was discussion around the benefits of mediation being voluntary or mandatory. Amanda said her research has determined that there is benefit to mediation under both circumstances.

There was discussion concerning the process for setting up mediations. Once Kren has a victim and an offender interested in mediation, she will forward the names onto Sara. Once the consent forms are signed, these will also be forwarded to Sara. Sara will ask the Mediation Center for a listing of new mediators they felt would be a good place to start. Sara will make sure these mediators are assigned a case and paired with a mediator first. All mediators must complete 3 mediation cases before mediating a case without an experienced mediator (these cases do not need to be victim offender cases).

It was decided that David will send an update to all the mediators letting them know that we have our first cases. He will also check with Dave to see where the role-playing training is at. David will also check with Mary Brunning to see when the small claims court training is.

Kit explained the Youth Accountability Conferencing. She said this is a pre-pre trial diversion option that LPD could refer kids to. She explained it would basically be for kids that make bad choices. These would be youth that committed non-violent first time offenses. The parent, child, LPD representative, victim, and facilitator would be at this conference. The goal would be to keep them out of the system. A letter could be sent to the family asking them to come to the conference. The facilitator could send a follow-up letter stating what was agreed upon. The meetings would be set for the same time and day of the week each week. Sara will check to see if LPD is open to this. She will also ask if they can keep the ticket until the youth follows through with the plan and if they don't send it on to the County Attorney. Kit will check with Casey at the Mediation Center to see if these cases could qualify for the 3 required cases. Once this is decided, Sara will inform all our mediators and leave the option open for mediators at the Mediation Center as well.